

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. In this paper, claim 10 has been amended to clarify certain features of the invention which have already been considered. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the amendments presented herein raise no new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Final Office Action, claims 10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by the Daum patent. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 10 recites:

- (1) “comparing a system time clock with the presentation time stamp of the predetermined picture;”
- (2) “updating the stored presentation time stamp with a presentation time stamp of a decoded or a skipped picture, while performing the special decoding;” and
- (3) “replacing the system time clock based on the updated presentation time stamp to perform a normal decoding, in the case that the current mode is switched to a normal decoding mode after the special decoding has been performed.”

The Daum patent does not disclose these features. The Daum patent discloses a system for synchronizing the audio portion of an MPEG bit stream with the video portion of that stream during playback. The need for this synchronization arises when the video portion of the MPEG stream lags behind the audio portion, thereby causing playback errors.

In performing this synchronization operation, however, the Daum system does not compare the system time clock with the presentation time stamp of the predetermined picture as recited in claim 10. This is clear from column 4, lines 10-16, which was relied on by the Examiner to provide the comparing step. Here, the Daum patent discloses a subtractor which subtracts a normalized video presentation time stamp from an audio presentation time stamp to generate a difference value. The difference value is then compared to a predetermined time drift threshold.. Neither the subtractor nor the comparator of Daum therefore performs the comparing step recited in claim 1.

More specifically, the Daum subtractor subtracts two presentation time stamp values, one being an audio time stamp and the other a video time stamp. This subtractor, however, does not compare a system time clock to a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture as recited in claim 10.

The Daum comparator is equally deficient, in that it compares the different value output from the subtractor to a predetermined time drift threshold. This comparator does not compare a system time clock to a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture as recited in claim 10. In fact neither value compared corresponds to a system time clock or a presentation time stamp, i.e., the difference value is based on the subtraction of two presentation time stamp values and the time draft corresponds to one half of a frame (column 8, lines 20-25). Neither of these compared values constitutes a system time clock or a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture as recited in claim 10.

Moreover, while the Daum patent discloses comparing a counter value to a presentation time stamp, this function is not performed by the Daum system. Instead, it is performed by what the Daum patent refers to as a prior-art system. This prior-art system is not a part of the Daum system, and in fact the Daum patent expressly distinguishes its system from the prior-art system. Thus, the disclosure at column 3, lines 22-33, may not be properly relied on for anticipation purposes.

Claim 10 also recites “updating the stored presentation time stamp with a presentation time stamp of a decoded or a skipped picture, while performing the special decoding.” The Daum patent also does not disclose these features. The Examiner relied on the disclosure at column 22 of the Daum patent for the updating operation. Here, Daum discloses a special decoding mode where stop, fast-forward, rewind, and pause functions are performed for an MPEG bit stream. During this decoding mode, frames are displayed on a step-by-step basis by incrementing a system time clock start time based on a frame rate of the video signal (lines 55-57).

However, the claimed invention updates a stored presentation time stamp with a presentation time stamp of a decoded or skipped picture during special decoding. The system time clock (STC) start time in Daum is different from the presentation time stamp of the claimed invention as is evident from Applicant’s drawings and corresponding portions of the specification. Therefore, incrementing the STC start time in Daum does not correspond to updating the presentation time stamp recited in claim 10.

Finally, claim 10 recites “replacing the system time clock based on the updated presentation time stamp to perform a normal decoding, in the case that the current mode is switched to a normal decoding mode after the special decoding has been performed.” Because the Daum patent does not generate an updated presentation time stamp, it logically follows that Daum does not disclose replacing a system time clock based on the updated time stamp when the current mode is switched to normal decoding mode after the special decoding has been performed. Moreover, instead of replacing its system time clock with the updated presentation time stamp, the Daum system increments its system clock based on the frame rate of the MPEG video signal (column 22, lines 55-57), which is different from the replacing step in claim 10.

Because the Daum patent does not disclose all of the features in claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the Daum patent. Applicant further submits that these differences are sufficient to render claim 10 and its dependent claims non-obvious and thus patentable over Daum.

Claim 12 separately recites that “in case the system clock and the presentation time stamp are not identical to each other, the system time clock is repeatedly increased.” As previously discussed, the Daum patent does not disclose or suggest comparing a system time clock to a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture, and therefore does not disclose the features of claim 12. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over the Daum patent taken alone. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 11 recites that the comparing step includes “outputting a display command signal when the system time clock and the presentation time stamp are identical to each other.” To provide these features, the Examiner relied on the disclosure at column 4, lines 40-44, of the Daum patent. Here, the Daum patent discloses a comparator which compares the difference value with a predetermined time drift threshold. However, as previously discussed, neither the difference value nor the time drift threshold corresponds to the items compared in claim 11. That is, the Daum comparator does not compare a system time clock and presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture to determine whether they are identical to one another. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is allowable over the Daum patent.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious in view of a Daum-Watkinson combination. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 14 depends from claim 10. In order to render claim 14 obvious, the Watkinson patent must therefore teach or suggest the features of claim 10 missing from the Daum patent. The Watkinson patent was cited for its disclosure of computing a presentation time stamp by adding a number of frames in a special decoding function. However, the Watkinson patent does not teach or suggest features 1) – 3) noted above that patentably distinguish claim 10 from the Daum patent. Absent a teaching or suggestion of these features, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 10.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over a Daum-Watkinson combination. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites “a comparator configured to compare the system time clock from the counter and a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture, compare them, and output a display command signal” based on a result of the comparison, i.e., “in the case that the system time clock and the presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture are identical to each other.” As discussed above, the Daum patent does not teach or suggest these features, and the Watkinson patent is equally deficient.

More specifically, the Daum patent compares audio and video presentation time stamps to one another. Based on this comparison, the audio portion of a MPEG file is synchronized to the video portion during playback. However, the Daum patent does not disclose comparing a system time clock to a presentation time stamp of a predetermined picture, and then outputting a display command signal based on that comparison. And, while Watkinson discloses computing a presentation time stamp based on added frames, this patent does not disclose the features of claim 1 missing from the Daum patent.

Based on at least these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over a Daum-Watkinson combination.

Claim 6 recites that the comparator outputs a display command signal “when the system time clock and the presentation time stamp of the predetermined time picture are identical..” To provide these features, the Examiner once again relied on column 4, lines 40-44, of the Daum

patent. However, as previously discussed, this portion of Daum subtracts audio and video presentation time stamps to generate a difference value for comparison with a predetermined time draft threshold. Daum does not disclose comparing a system time clock to a presentation time stamp of a predetermined time picture as recited in claim 6, and neither does Watkinson.

Applicant therefore submits that claim 6 is allowable over a Daum-Watkinson combination, not only based on its dependency from claim 1 but also based on the features separately recited therein.

Claim 7 discloses additional functions that occur based on a comparison of the system time clock and the presentation time stamp. These features are not taught or suggested by the Daum and Watkinson patents, whether taken alone or in combination. Absent a teaching or suggestion of these features, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable.

Claims 8 and 9 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 1.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over a Daum-Watkinson-Lane combination. This rejection is traversed on grounds that claim 5 depends from claims 1 and 2, and that the Lane patent does not teach or suggest the features which patentably distinguish claims 1 and 2 from a Daum-Watkinson combination.

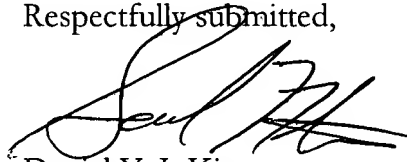
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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